AUTHOR'S NOTE

THE first occasion on which I was compelled to forsake the usual means of transit, viz. steamer and train, in my travels to India and the Far East was necessitated by my election to the House of Commons. For the past twenty years I have had business interests in India and the Far East which were largely of a personal nature. These annual visits occupied about eight months in which to cover the territory, and which would have obviously been impossible to complete during the Parliamentary recess extending from the beginning of August to the middle of November, if I depended as formerly on the usual steamer and train journeys. By enlisting the service of Imperial Airways as far as Singapore and the Dutch lines from Singapore to Java and Sumatra it became practicable for the territory in question to be covered in little more than half the time taken by the ordinary means of transit. The method adopted which worked perfectly from start to finish of my travels covering upwards of twenty thousand miles, was to visit each city, and catch the following week's airplane to the next centre. I would like to express my sincere thanks for the kindness and consideration shewn to me by the officials and staff of the Imperial Airways and Dutch services whose efforts overcame all difficulties and enabled me to keep every appointment without one day's delay throughout the entire journey. It only remains for me to acknowledge

the permission to reproduce the Imperial Airway photographs, the Dutch Airline photographs, and especially the magnificent infra-red pictures taken by *The Times* photographer with whom for part of the journey it was my good fortune to travel. In the interests of Commercial Aviation I feel sure the information within the covers of this book will be of interest to those whose business interests lie in the Dominions beyond the seas. In conclusion my cordial thanks are due to Lord Sempill for his most interesting contribution and especially for the reason that he writes from personal experience in flight over the same parts of the world.